(c) While monitoring the staff strength, safety of train operations is always emphasized so that the desired quality of output is achieved by employing optimum number of staff.

(d) Sanctioned strength is reviewed regularly by surrendering posts due to changing work practices and introduction of new technology, and posts are also created as and when required against new assets nad new services. Filling up of vacancies is a continuous process.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Vehicular Pollution

1174. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the increased use of vehicles in the country the vehicular pollution load has gone up eight times in twenty years indicating a dire warning;

(b) the steps taken by Government especially, to curb the air pollution keeping in the view the increased use of vehicles; and

(c) Government's policy on advanced technology solutions for the automobile industries to control air pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No specific studies have been conducted to indicate increase in the vehicular pollution load in the country during the last twenty years by eight times. However, due to steps taken for vehicular pollution control, vehicular emission loads have been contained.

Steps that have been taken up by the Government for controlling vehicular pollution are as follows:

- A road map upto 2010 has been laid down by the Expert Committee on Auto Fuel Policy for controlling Vehicular pollution from both new as well as inuse vehicles all over the country;
- Fuel quality commensurate with emission norms has been implemented all over the country;

- Establishment of Pollution Under Control (PUC) Checking Centres for in-use vehicles;
- City-specific action-plans for the identified cities have been prepared to control air pollution;
- Monitoring for compliance of notified standards;

In context with technology advancement, the road map laid by the Expert Committee on Auto Fuel Policy includes advancement and quality upgradation from Automobile as well as Fuel sector.

Import of wheat

1175. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to import wheat recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of wheat production in our country in the last five years, year wise and State wise;

(d) the details of wheat procurement by Government and its agencies, year-wise and State wise;

(e) the MSP offered to the wheat farmers, year-wise;

(f) the procurement price offered by Government during the last five years, year-wise;

(g) the details of the general market prices for wheat purchase by the private traders, year-wise; and

(h) the price on which the Government have decided to import wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government decided to import 5 lakh MTs of wheat in February 2006 for Southern States only for stabilizing the rising prices of wheat in those States. Thereafter, a decision to import a further quantity of 30 lakh MTs of wheat was taken to maintain the prescribed buffer norms and to meet the commitments towards Targeted Public Distribution and other Welfare Schemes.